Digital Literacy Project

XO Laptop Pilot
Managua, Nicaragua
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Steve Anastos

Tiffany Au

Melissa Oppenheim

Background

- DigiLit was founded in September 2008 at Harvard College
- 20 team members
- Two local pilots, emphasis on curriculum development and openness to a range of learning styles

Local Pilots

- Cambridge Friends School: 30 XOs in the 4th grade classrooms
  - Research on collaborative behavior, software piloting
- Mission Hill After-School Program
  - Tutoring program for low-income students
  - XOs used for homework and activities
  - 1-to-1-to-1: 1 XO and 1 Harvard tutor per child

Cambridge Friends School Pilot

Fourth graders get to know the XO laptop.

Mission Hill After-School Program

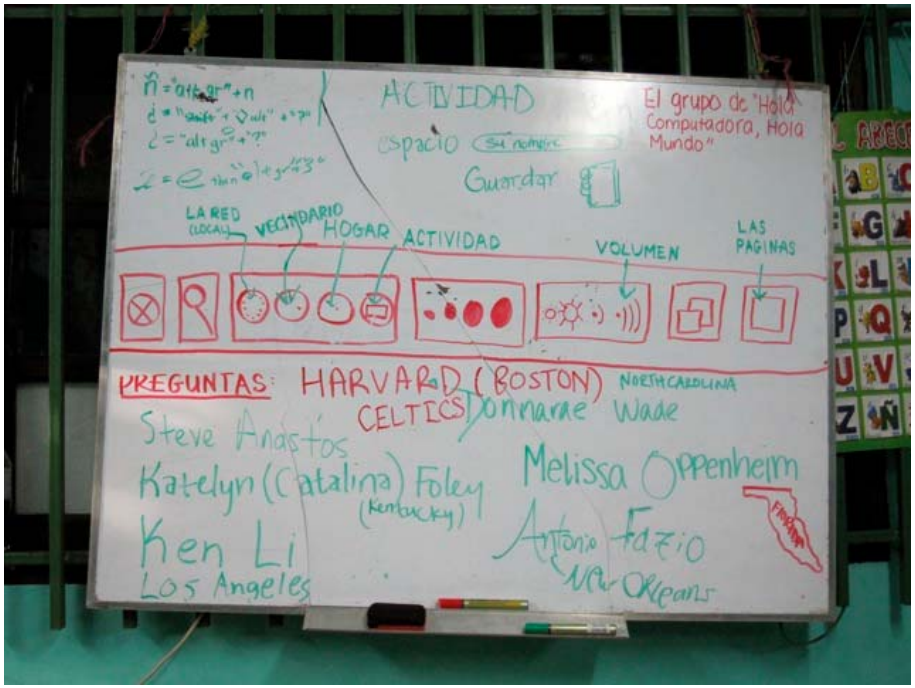
The Green Group (3rd – 5th grade) uses XO laptops for homework assignments.

Nicaraguan Deaf Association

- Asociación Nacional de Sordos de Nicaragua (ANSNIC): community center for deaf students
- 7 members of DigiLit team went to Managua to set up a 10-XO computer lab and teach computer classes for deaf students
  - Computer lab set-up allowed us to reach out to more students in the deaf community
  - 2 classes per day with 10 students
  - Wireless internet
- Partner: Eirin Kallestad from the IDB

Communication

- Interpreter (Spanish → Nicaraguan Sign Language)
- Students taught us key words in sign language
- Visual learning
- 1-on-1 attention



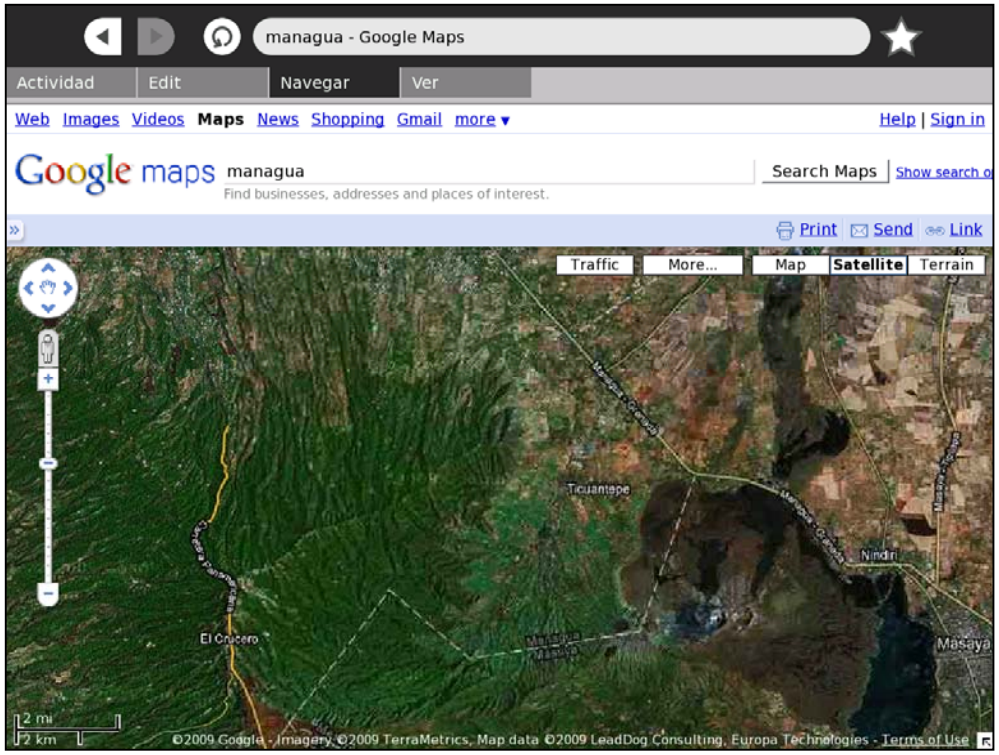
Curriculum Development

- Older students than we had anticipated → Focus on practical, everyday-life skills
- Challenging to balance the kid-friendliness of the XO with the age group
- Nicaraguan education system favors rigidity, causing us to clearly define activities

Lesson Plans

- Examples:
  - Take pictures of friends using Record and then import them into Memorize to make a matching game.
  - Go to La Prensa online and find an interesting news article. Read the article with a partner and then tape your discussion using Record.
  - Find your neighborhood on Google Maps. Take a screenshot and import the image into Write so that you can write about your family.
  - Write out a weekly budget using Finance. Remember to use the Credit button for money that you can spend and the Debit button for things that you buy. Make sure that your balance is never negative!
  - Research your future career on Wikipedia. Use Write to copy and paste text about the career and write a short summary of your goals after your graduate from school.
  - Poll your class on their future careers. Create a pie graph using SocialCalc to see what percentage of students would like to work in a specific field.

Student Work



san isidro de bolas
mi familias trdas
maria elena hermana
luis flores hermano
jose daniel
darling estrada
ma teresa madre?
maria elena
jose daniel hermano
jose perez padre
ricrado flores hermano

Student Work

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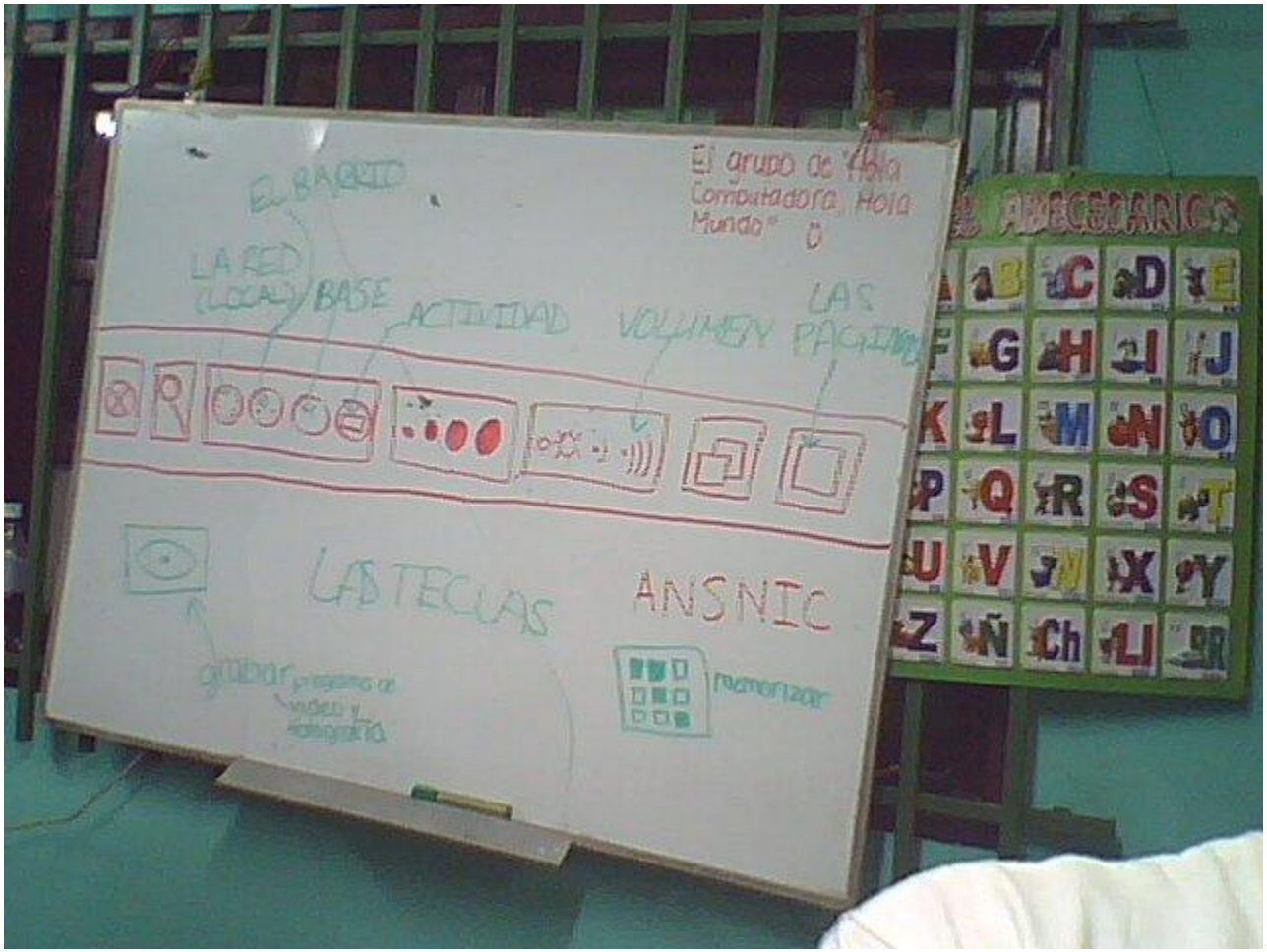

Student Work - Dictionary

Video Tutorials

- Advanced students translated introductory tutorials to the XO into sign language
- We videotaped these tutorials so that students who did not take the class can meet the XO
- We will offer the tutorials on our website with screenshots

Video Tutorials

Follow-up

- Email communication
- Two students who were in the class will be teaching a new group of students

Reflection

- Challenges
  - Older age
  - Communication barriers and diverse learning styles
  - Balance exciting, glitzy aspects of technology with practical applications
- Successes
  - Turned “students” into “teachers”
  - XO tutorials in sign language
  - Emphasis on integrating the XO into life skills

Pictures and Videos

El grupo de Hola Computadora, Hola Mundo" Ü
VECINDARIO
HOGAR
LA RED (LOCAL)
LAS
VOLUMEN PAGINAS
ESCRIBIR
INICIAR

El grupo de Hola Computadora, Hola Mundo

Contact Information

- Steve Anastos – steve@digiliteracy.org
- Tiffany Au – tiffany@digiliteracy.org
- Melissa Oppenheim – mel@digiliteracy.org